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HR 266/HCR 207
REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MAMALA BAY ARTIFICIAL
REEF ZONE FOR RESEARCH AND OTHER NON-CONSUMPTIVE USES

Statement for
House committee on
Ocean and Marine Resources
Public Hearing - April 11, 1988

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HR 266/HCR 207 would require the Department of Land and Natural Resources to designate a portion of Mamala Bay or other geographically and physically similar location as an Artificial Reef Zone as well as a Marine Life Conservation District for the purpose of conducting related research.

The deleterious influences of excessive consumptive utilization of marine natural resources are well documented throughout the Hawaiian Islands. Beneficial effects of exclusion of resource consumption are also evident within established marine life conservation districts. Artificial reef technology offers the prospect of substantial enhancement of nearshore marine communities, yet this technology needs a great deal of development. A major benefit of this resolution would be the creation of a suitable, protected region where the experimental progress on marine community enhancement may be studied reliably.

Establishment and maintenance of marine life conservation districts is a legitimate function of the Department of Land and Natural Resources. We strongly support the intent of these resolutions as they attempt to establish an Artificial Reef Zone and Marine Life Conservation District for the purpose of conducting research to study the possibilities of building artificial reefs in the Hawaiian Islands.